

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2922

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 0897

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR : ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XM

SUBJECT: SUGGESTIONS FOR U.S. POLICY TOWARD LA NATIONS

1. AS YOU KNOW, DURING FOUR YEARS AS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY I WAS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN FORMULATION US POLICY TOWARD LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS, BEGINNING WITH PARTICIPATION IN DRAFTING PRESIDENT NIXON'S OCT 1969 MAJOR POLICY SPEECH. I BELIEVE THAT THE BASIC TENETS OF THAT SPEECH SHOULD CONTINUE TO GUIDE OUR OVERALL POSTURE IN THE HEMISPHERE.

2. WITH REGARD TO SPECIFICS, A NUMBER OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS, ESPECIALLY IN THE ECONOMIC AREA, WERE CONTAINED IN THE DEPT'S REPLIES TO NSSM 108 AND NSSM 117 AS WELL AS TO SUBSEQUENT NATIONAL SECURITY MEMORANDA ON THE SUBJECT. TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS EXISTED WITH RESPECT TO THE REPLIES TO THOSE NSSM'S: OUR INABILITY TO GET VERY BUSY HIGH LEVEL PERSONS TO FOCUS UPON THEM; AND THE VERY HEAVY ROLE THAT THE TREASURY DEPT WAS PLAYING IN THOSE DAYS WITH RESPECT TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, ESPECIALLY UNDER JOHN CONNALLY. WITH THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS, IT MAY NOW BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENT A NUMBER OF THE SPECIFICS. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU MAY RECALL THAT DURING THE COM MEETING CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY I SUGGESTED THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO RAISING THE DUTY-FREE LIMITATION FROM ONE TO TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS IN CASES WHERE US TOURISTS RETURN FROM VISITING LATIN AMERICA. THAT THOUGHT APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN

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FAVORABLY RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY. THAT AND OTHER CONCRETE PRO-

POSALS WERE CONTAINED IN THE REPLIES TO THE NSSM'S. UNFORTUNATELY,
I NO LONGER HAVE ACCESS TO THESE FILES AND MY MEMORY HAS
BECOME HAZY. YOU MAY WISH TO HAVE THESE DOCUMENTS CULLED
FOR THEIR SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS. BEST REGARDS.
HURWITCH

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